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Biological resources  
Reading Room  
RCRA



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# Use of Carbohydrates and Triglycerides for the Production of Fuels and Chemical feedstocks.

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Pete Silks, Jin Kyung Kim, Weizong Chen, Ruilian Wu, John C. Gordon, Ryszard Michalczyk.

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# LANL Bioenergy Catalysis Programs in Bioscience and Chemistry Divisions

LDRD DR  
Biomass to Fuels  
new start FY10  
Gordon PI, Silks Co-PI

CRADA  
Chemical Feedstocks from Biomass  
Silks PI

EERE  
Chemical Feedstocks from Biomass  
Silks PI

LANL-TT  
New Biodegradable  
Chemical Feedstocks from Biomass  
Ruilian Wu



LDRD ER  
Lignin Deconstruction  
New start FY19  
Silks PI, Hanson Co-PI

LDRD ER  
Developing a Mild Catalytic Route for the  
Reduction of  $N_2$  to  $NH_3$   
Gordon, PI

NABC  
Fuels from Biomass via Catalysis  
Gordon, Silks PI

LANL-NAABB  
Fuels-Chemical Conversion  
Silks, Ludwig, Unkefer

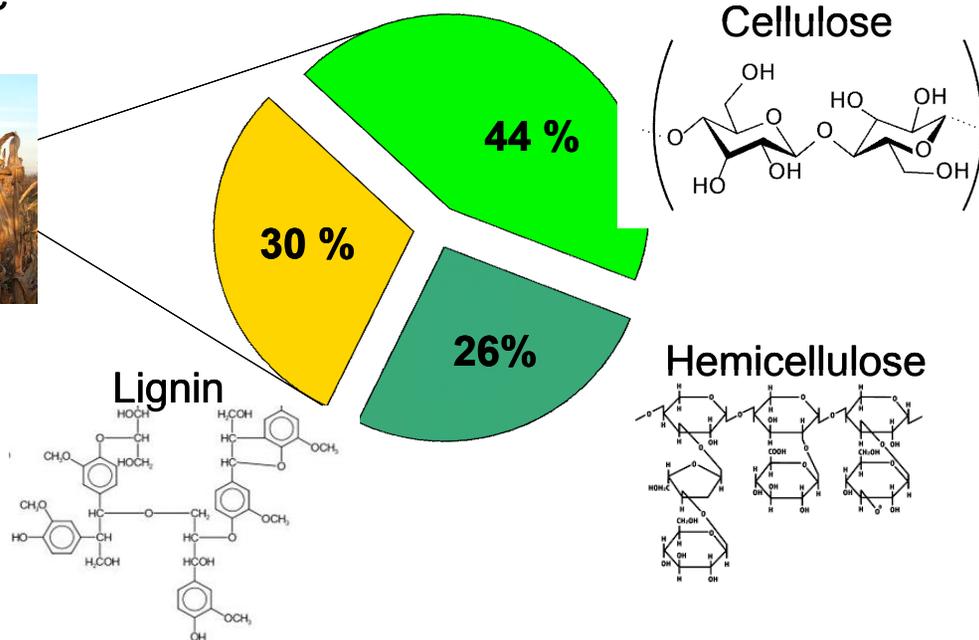
# Upgrading of Biorenewables into (High Energy Density) Fuels and Feedstocks

Non-food based sources:

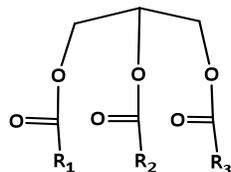
agricultural residues (e.g. corn stover), dedicated energy crops, wood residues (paper mill discards), municipal paper waste

Ligno-cellulosic Biomass

~ 200 x 10<sup>9</sup> tons  
Lignocellulose/yr

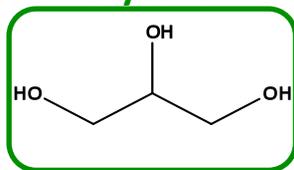


# Other (Plentiful) Biomass Derived Molecules..



vegetable oils  $\xrightarrow{\text{ROH}}$

**Glycerol**

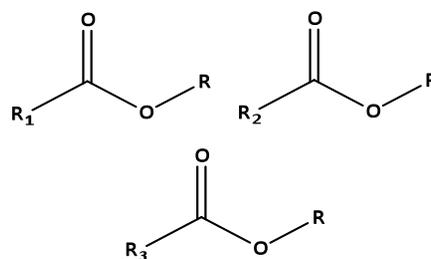


> 1 million tons/  
year!

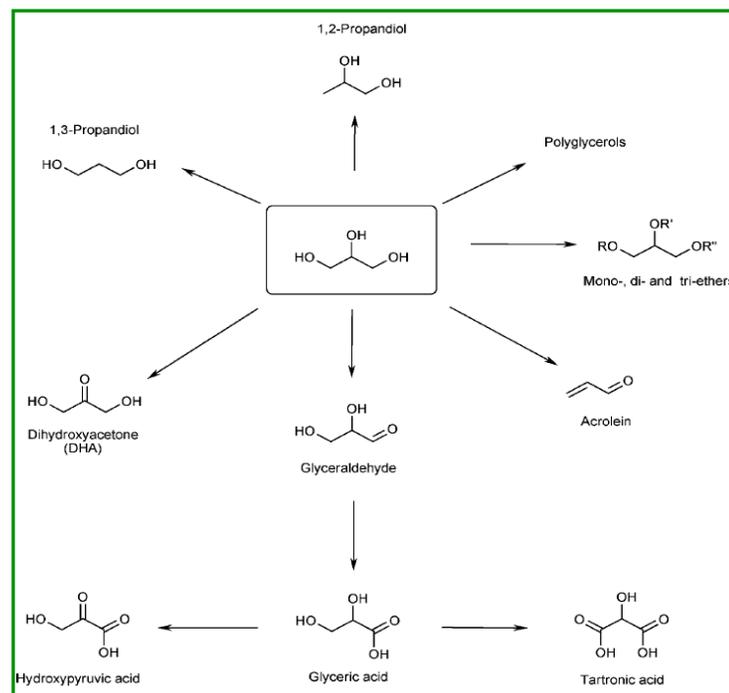
- Low cost

- Feedstock to valuable  
intermediates

-Low selectivity

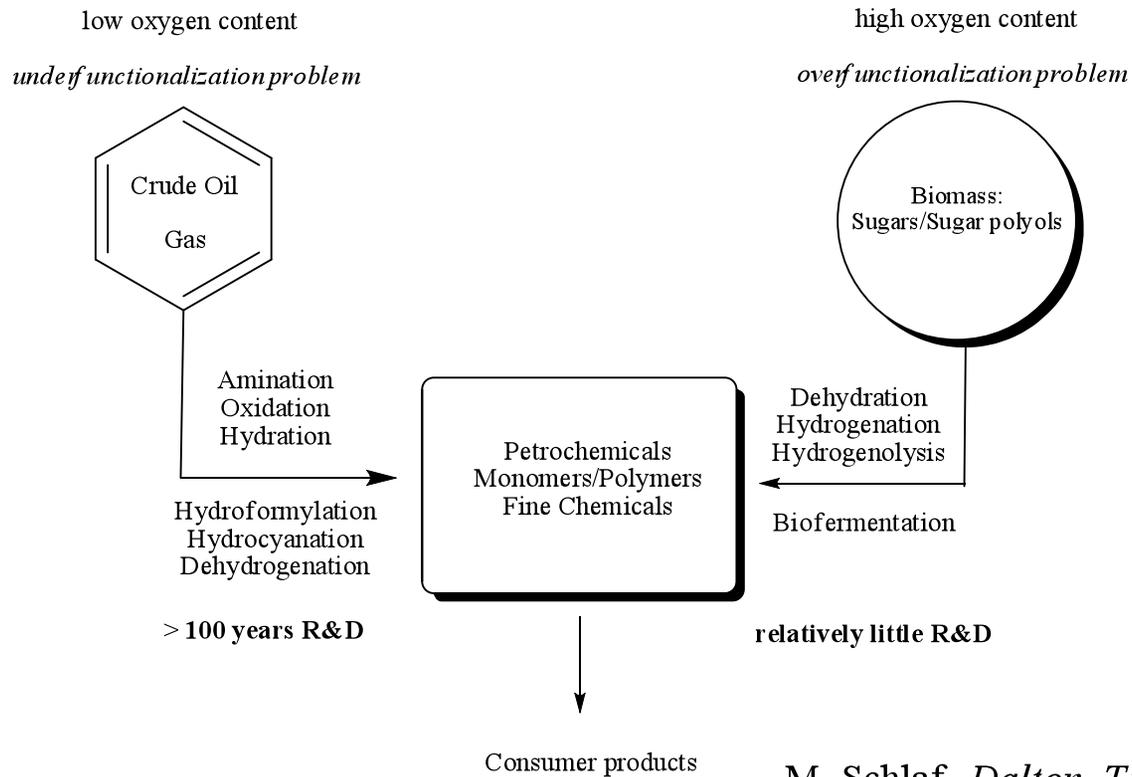


**Biodiesel**



Green Chem. 2010, 12, 2225

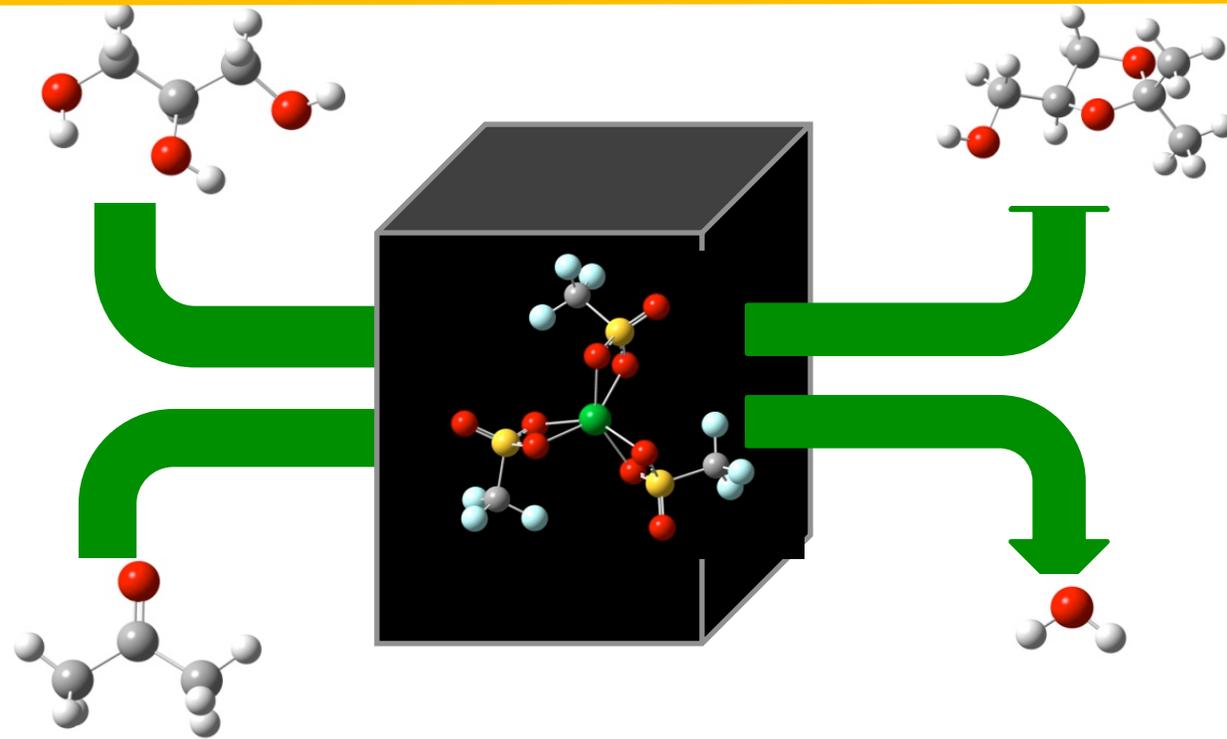
# The Problem/Paradigm...



M. Schlaf, *Dalton. Trans.* 2006, 4645

**Development of effective biomass conversion technologies that integrates with existing fuel production and distribution infrastructure: shift away from our dependence on foreign petroleum imports**

# Overview of the Presentation



**BACKGROUND** (*as to how we stumbled into acetals...*)

**Upgrading of Cellulosics into (High Energy Density) Fuels**

**Smaller Bioderived Polyols and Lanthanide Catalyzed Dehydrations**

# Use of Simple Biomass Derived Polyols..?

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Also require O-atom removal..

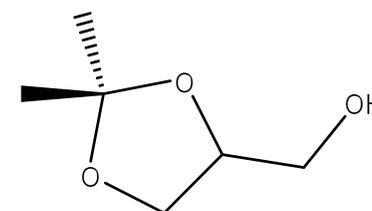
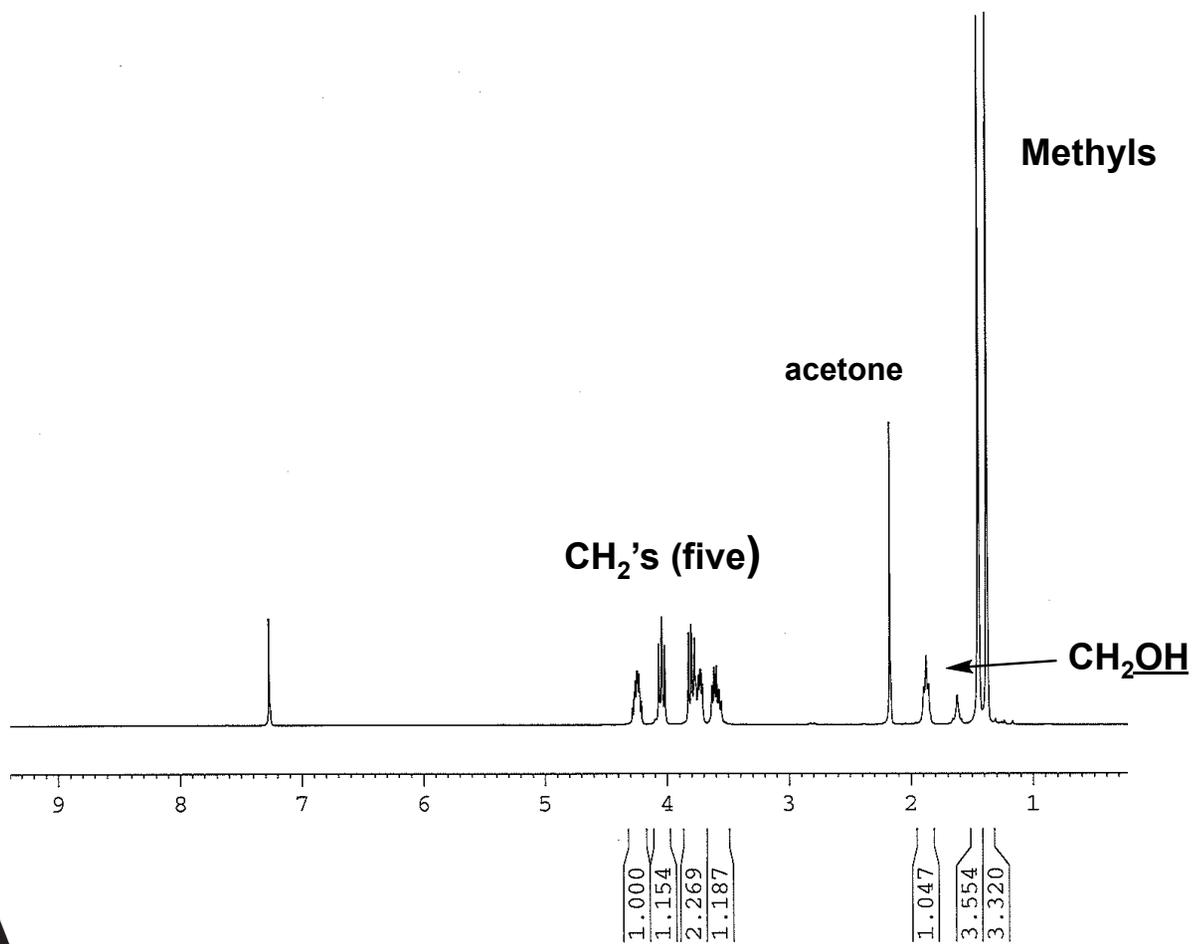
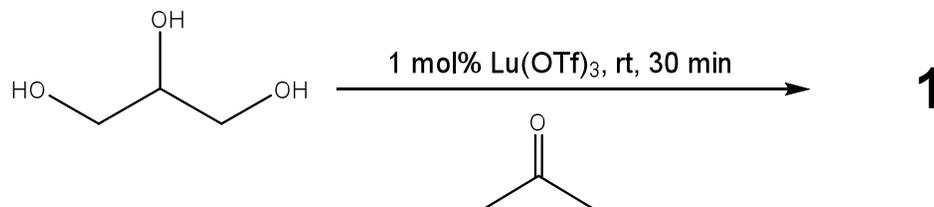
Want to avoid use of Brønsted Acids  
(may want stereo - and chemo-selectivity....).

→ LA catalysis..

Also for dehydration chemistry, need water tolerant catalysts.....

$\text{Lu}(\text{OTf})_3$  (strongly Lewis Acidic and  $f^{14}$  system)

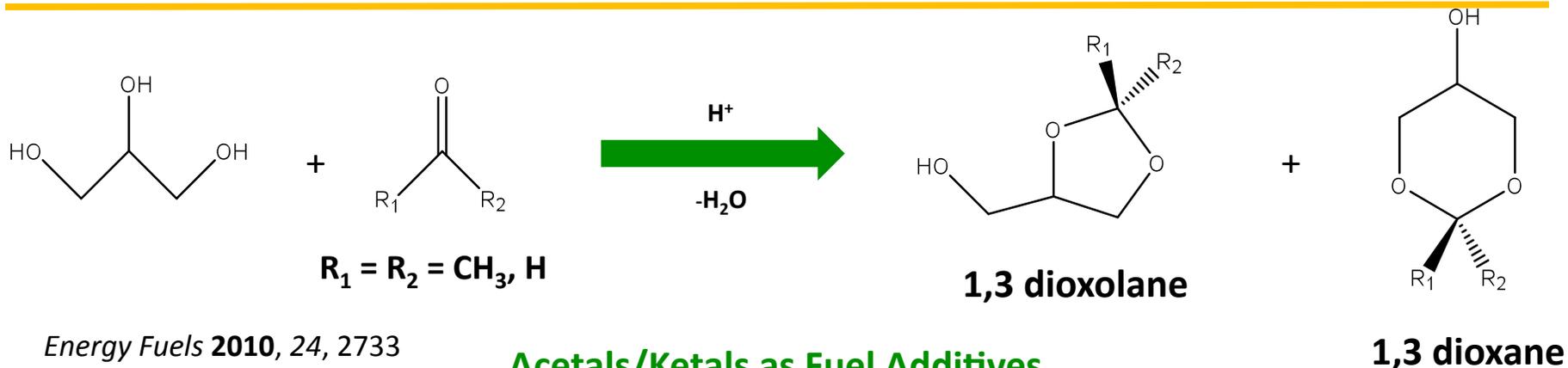
# Glycerol + Lu(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (in acetone.....)



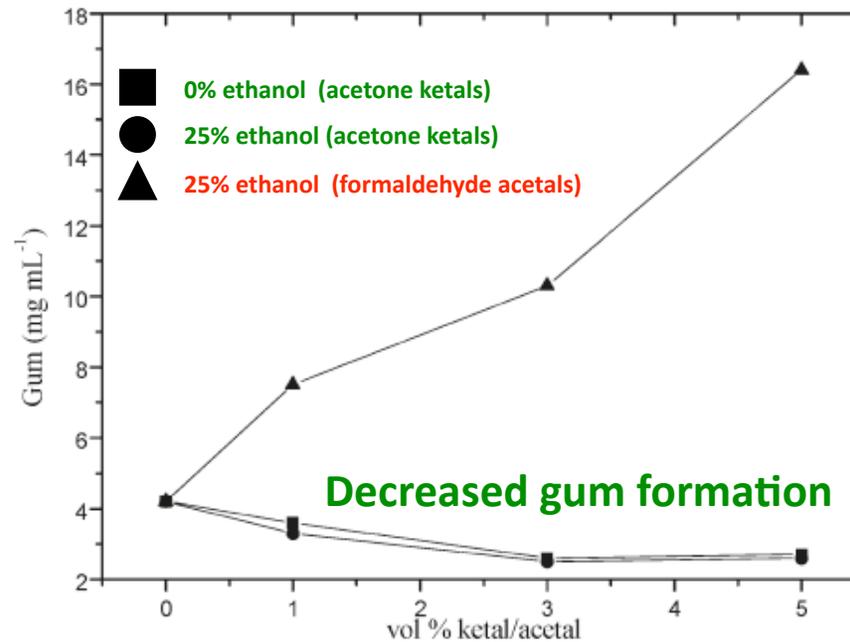
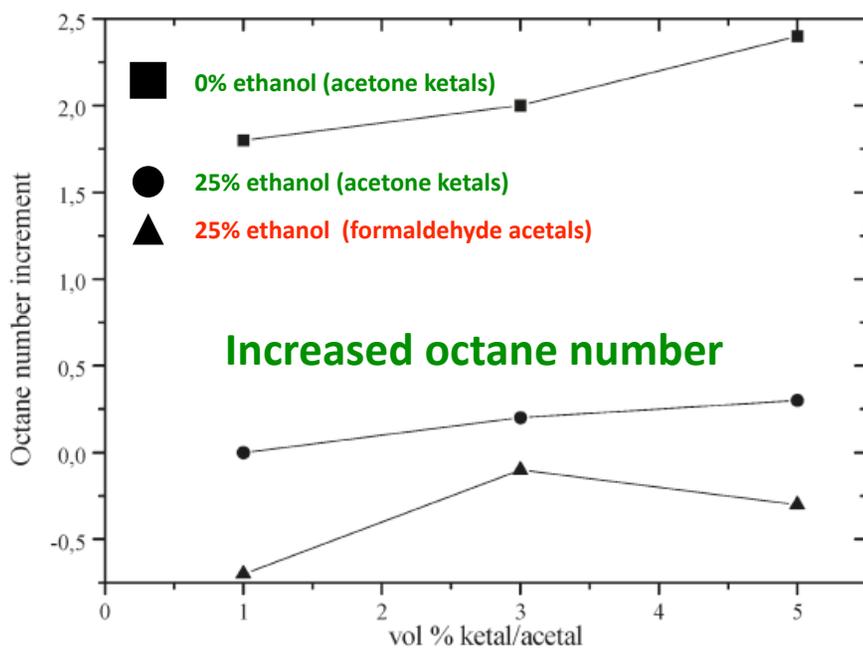
**1**

**5-membered  
dioxolane**

# Glycerol Protection - Acetals/Ketals as Fuel Additives..

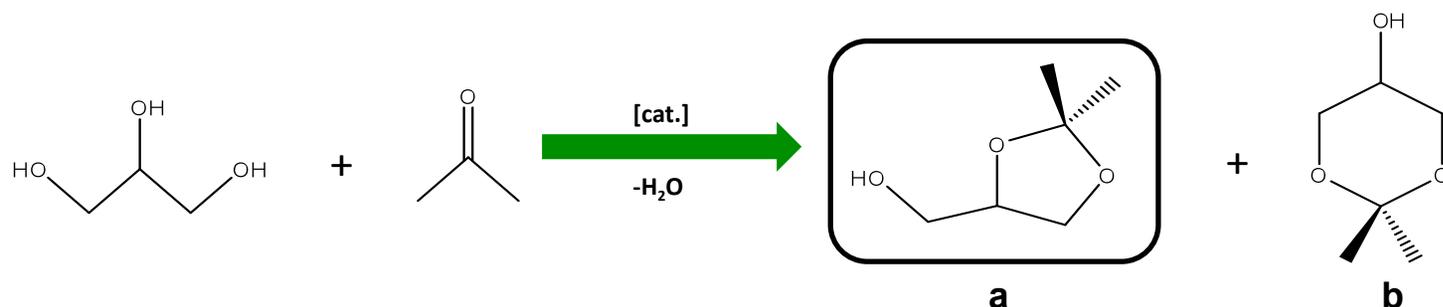


## Acetals/Ketals as Fuel Additives

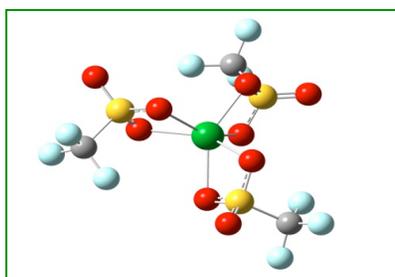


UNCLASSIFIED

# Experimental Comparisons



<u>Catalyst</u>	<u>T (°C)</u>	<u>RT(min.)</u>	<u>%conv</u>	<u>% Selectivity (a)</u>	<u>Ref.</u>
Amberlyst-36	38.1-40.0	480	88	100	i
Amberlyst-15	70	15	95	100	ii
Zeolite beta	35	240	100	100	iii
[Cp*IrCl <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>2</sub>	40	60	86	98	iv
<b>Lu(OTf)<sub>3</sub></b>	<b>R.T.</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>present work</b>



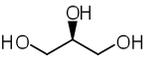
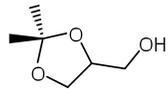
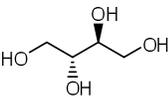
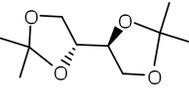
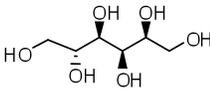
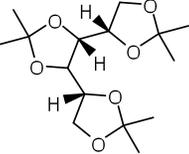
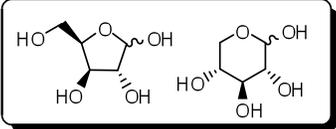
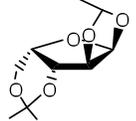
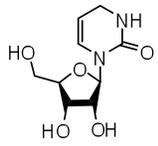
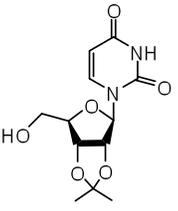
- Selectivity for 5-membered dioxolane *in all cases*

- Lu(OTf)<sub>3</sub> :100% conversion after 1hr. at R.T., 1 mol% !

- Mechanistic explanations needed

- i. *J. Catal.*, **2007**, 245, 428
- ii. *Green Chem.*, **2009**, 11, 38
- iii. *Pet. Chem.*, **2011**, 51, 61
- iv. *Green Chem.*, **2010**, 12, 2225

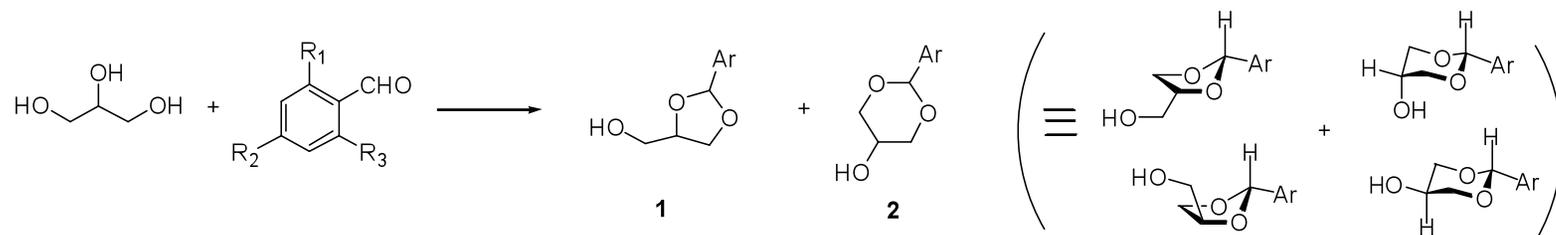
# RT Polyol Reactivity with Acetone (Small Selection...)

	Polyol	Product	Reaction time (hr)	NMR conversion (%)	Isolated Yield (%)
Linear	 <b>glycerol</b>	 <b>X-ray</b>	1	99	83
	 <b>erythritol</b>	 <b>X-ray</b>	3	94	88
	 <b>D-sorbitol</b>	 <b>X-ray</b>	5	99	76
Cyclic	 <b>D-xylose</b>	 <b>X-ray</b>	20*	90	90
Nucleosides	 <b>uridine</b>	 <b>X-ray</b>	48	99	81

Typical conditions: 0.01 mmol Lu(OTf)<sub>3</sub>; 1 mmol polyol; 10mL acetone: RT

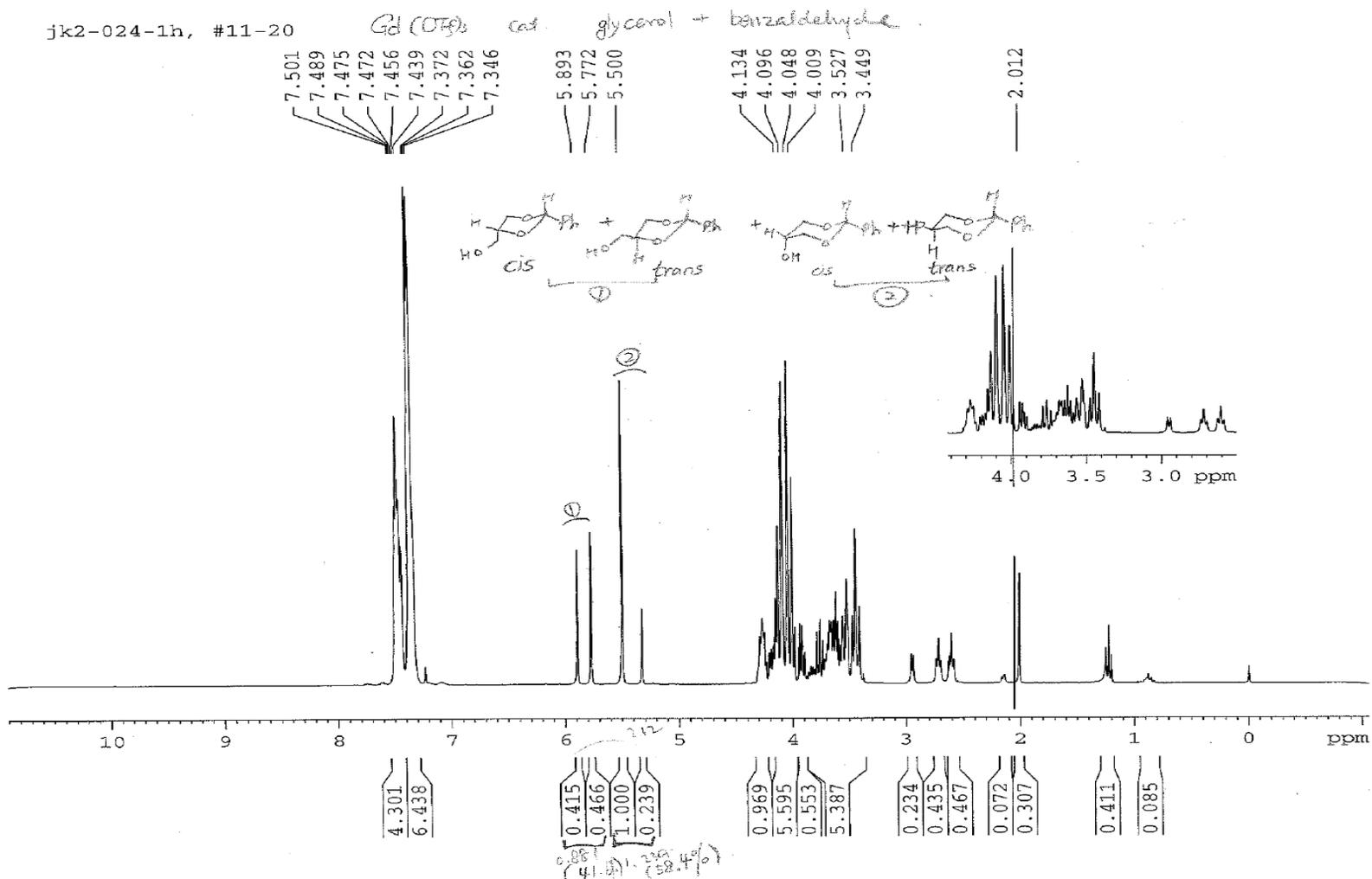
(\* = 40°C)

# RT Polyol Reactivity Evaluation (Small Selection...)



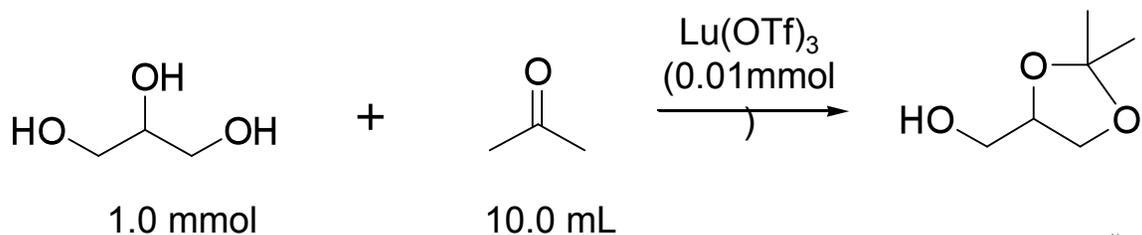
Entry	Aldehyde	Conditions	Glycerol conversion	1 : 2 (in %)
1	Benzaldehyde (R <sub>1</sub> =R <sub>2</sub> =R <sub>3</sub> =H)	Lu(OTf) <sub>3</sub> (0.01), CH <sub>3</sub> CN, rt, 24h	74%	40 : 60
2		Gd(OTf) <sub>3</sub> (0.01), CH <sub>3</sub> CN, rt, 2d	N/A	42 : 58 (27% isolated, combined)
3		Lu(OTf) <sub>3</sub> (0.01), CH <sub>3</sub> CN, MS, rt, 24h	40%	83 : 17 (1h), 74 : 26 (6h)
4		Lu(OTf) <sub>3</sub> (0.01), CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> , reflux (39°C), 6h	75%	48 : 52
5		Lu(OTf) <sub>3</sub> (0.01), CH <sub>3</sub> CN, reflux (81°C), 6h	70%	42 : 58
6		Lu(OTf) <sub>3</sub> (0.01), CH <sub>3</sub> CN, MS, reflux (81°C), 6h	~100%	58 : 42 → 48 : 52 after cooling/standing
7	Tolualdehyde (R <sub>1</sub> =R <sub>3</sub> =H, R <sub>2</sub> =CH <sub>3</sub> )	Lu(OTf) <sub>3</sub> (0.01), CH <sub>3</sub> CN, rt, 48h	52%	44 : 56 (36% combined, isolated)
8	Mesitaldehyde (R <sub>1</sub> =R <sub>2</sub> =R <sub>3</sub> =CH <sub>3</sub> )	Lu(OTf) <sub>3</sub> (0.01), CH <sub>3</sub> CN, rt then 80°C, 3d	34%	33 : 67
9	<i>p</i> -Anisaldehyde (R <sub>1</sub> =R <sub>3</sub> =H, R <sub>2</sub> =OCH <sub>3</sub> )	Lu(OTf) <sub>3</sub> (0.01), CH <sub>3</sub> CN, rt, 4d	29%	38 : 62
10	<i>o</i> -Anisaldehyde (R <sub>1</sub> =R <sub>3</sub> =H, R <sub>2</sub> =OCH <sub>3</sub> )	Lu(OTf) <sub>3</sub> (0.01), CH <sub>3</sub> CN, rt, 4d	80 %	40 : 60
11	4-Fluorobenzaldehyde (R <sub>1</sub> =R <sub>3</sub> =H, R <sub>2</sub> =F)	Lu(OTf) <sub>3</sub> (0.01), CH <sub>3</sub> CN, rt, 18h	92 %	33 : 67
12	4-Hydroxybenzaldehyde (R <sub>1</sub> =R <sub>3</sub> =H, R <sub>2</sub> =OH)	Lu(OTf) <sub>3</sub> (0.01), CH <sub>3</sub> CN, rt, 18h	23 %	41 : 59

# RT Polyol Reactivity Evaluation (Small Selection...)

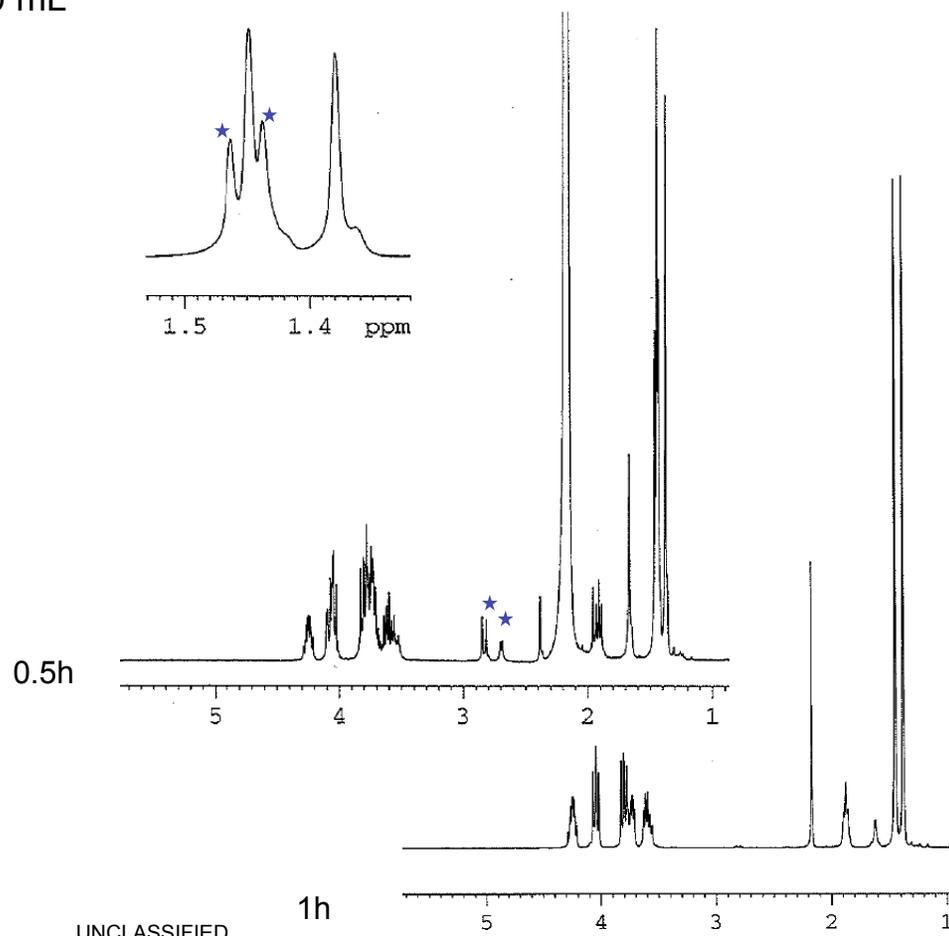
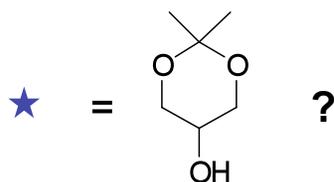


Peak assignment ref : *Journal of Catalysis* 2007, 245, 428

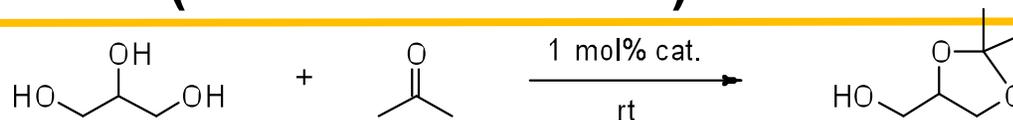
# Water Sensitivity Evaluation (Small Selection...)



H <sub>2</sub> O added /mL	Time to completion / h
0.00	1
0.020	1
0.050	2

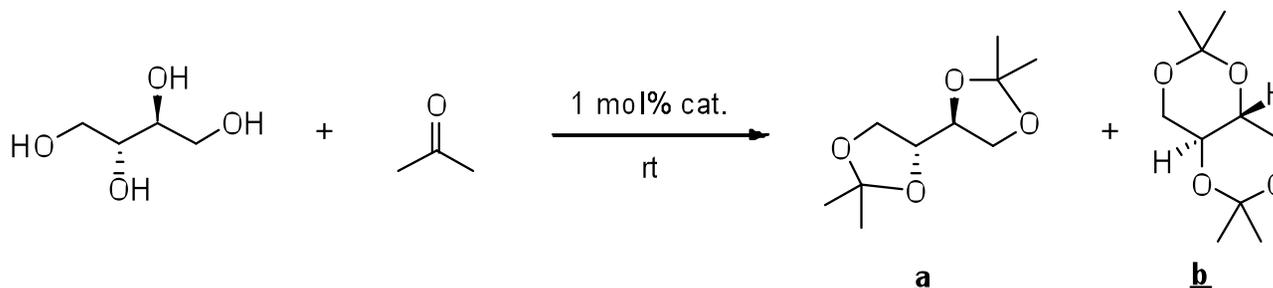


# Comparison (Small Selection...)

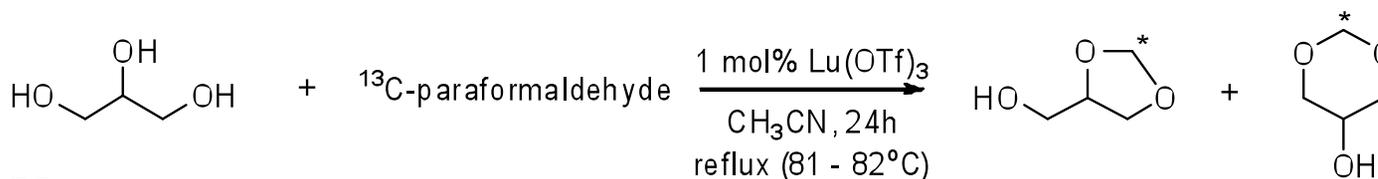


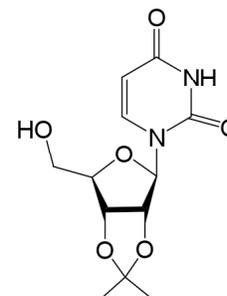
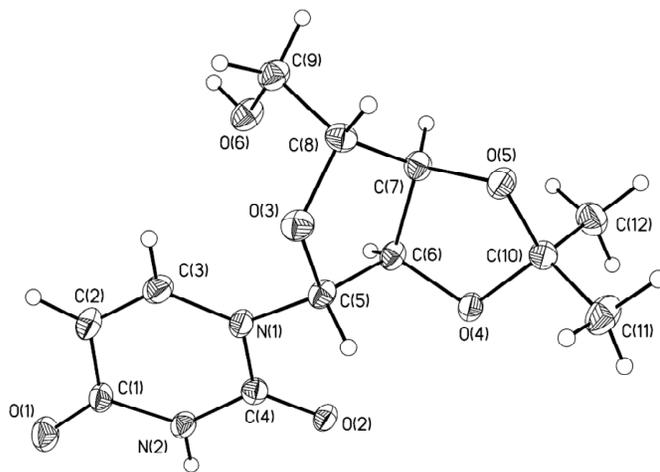
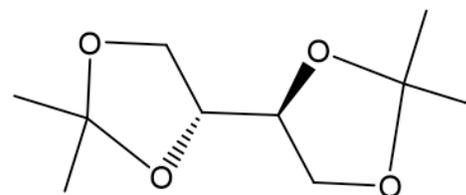
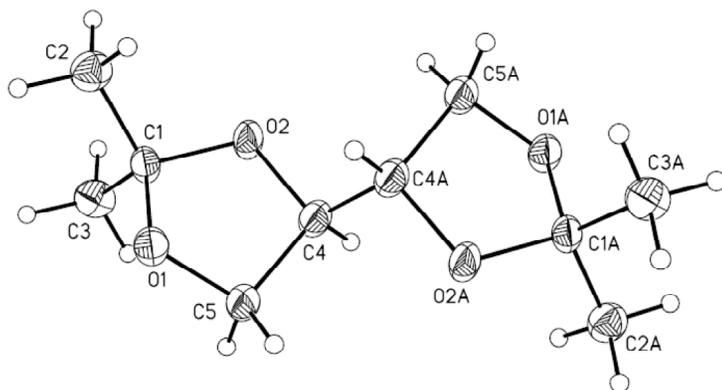
Catalyst	time	% conversion
<i>p</i> -TsOH	0.5 h	> 99 *
Lu(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	1.0 h	> 99

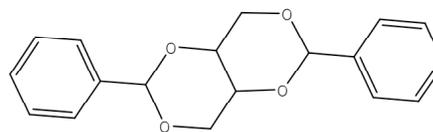
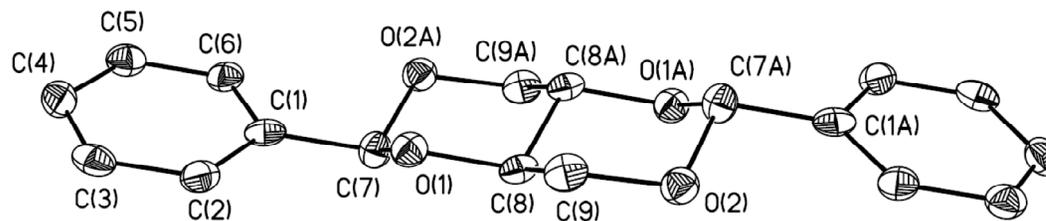
\* Reverse reaction competes



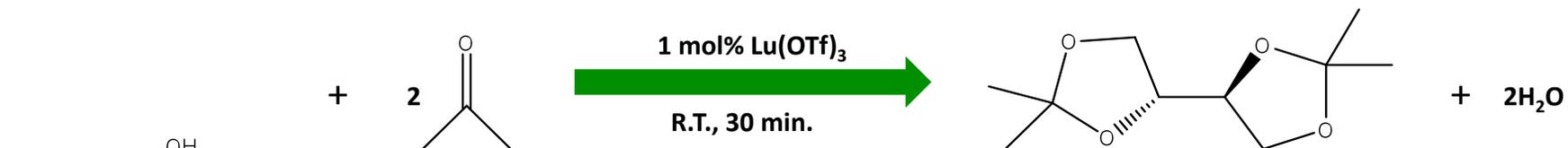
Catalyst	time	<b>a</b> : <b>b</b>
<i>p</i> -TsOH	1.5 h	86 : 14
Lu(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	3.0 h	> 99 : 0



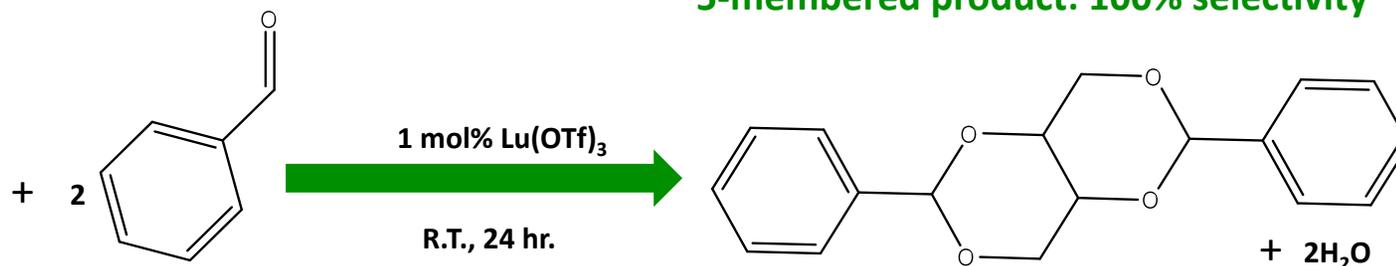




# Future Work



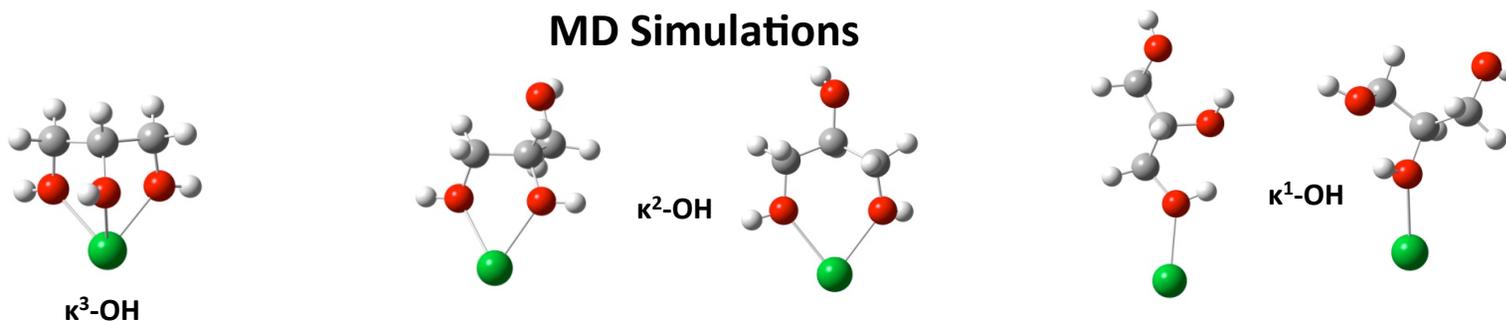
5-membered product: 100% selectivity



6-membered product: 100% selectivity

Why is stereoselectivity reversed with benzaldehyde?

## MD Simulations



Glycerol/hemiketal/ketal binding modes?

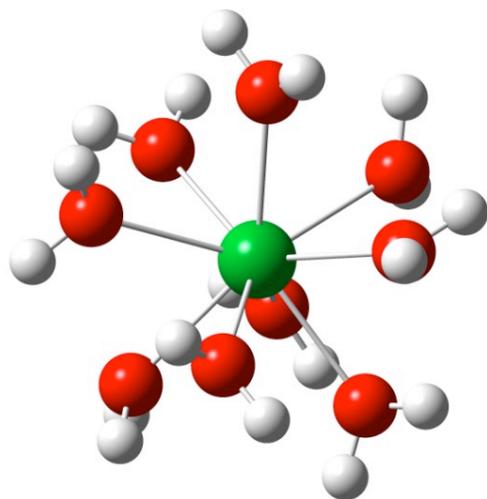
H<sub>2</sub>O/Acetone solvation?

Role of OTf counterions?

# Acknowledgements

## Theory

- Aaron W. Pierpont
- Enrique R. Batista
- Richard L. Martin



LDRD

## Experimental

- Weizhong Chen
- Jin K. Kim
- Louis A. "Pete" Silks III
- Ryszard Michalczyk
- Brian L. Scott
- Andrew D. Sutton

